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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1947

By *No 1938*
G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G. *Report*

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

Chairman:

W. G. BACK, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

H. WILLIAMSON

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

G. I. BREW

W. G. D. CAMERON

H. T. COURT

G. W. DRUCE

MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

W. G. TAYLER

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Pupil Assistant:

J. S. RUCK

Clerk:

MISS C. A. NEALE (Until October 1947)

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Seventh Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1947.

DIPHTHERIA

Fifty per cent. of the children under 5 and sixty-one per cent. of those between 5 and 15 in the district had completed the full course of immunisation at the close of the year under review. There were no notifications of diphtheria during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were twelve new cases during the year as compared with 12, 15, 10, 18, and 13 respectively in the years 1946 to 1942 inclusive. These figures do not include cases in Middlesex County Hospital, Shenley.

VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate of 21 per 1,000 population is the highest recorded in the district during the past 25 years. (Records earlier than 1924 are not available.)

HOUSING

Ninety-five permanent and twenty-six temporary houses were completed and occupied during the year. Many families living in overcrowded conditions were rehoused and I am satisfied that there are now few cases of serious overcrowding in the district.

GENERAL

I am indebted to the Members of the Council for their support during the year, and for the keen interest they have shown in matters affecting the public health. To the Sanitary Inspector and the staff of the Public Health Department my thanks are again due for their unfailing help and willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographic processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the L.M.S. Railway line. On the East side of the L.M.S. Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected immediately prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, pistons, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	241	127	114
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	7	1

Birth Rate: 21 per 1,000 *estimated resident population.*

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	9	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Rate: 19.7 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births.</i>							

Deaths	...	...	...	...	97	49	48
Death Rate: 8.2 per 1,000 <i>estimated average population.</i>							

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is not available for 1947. The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 12.0 and 12.8 per 1,000 population.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil	—
Total	Nil	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	36.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	37.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

One whole-time Assistant Sanitary Inspector who is studying for the qualifying examination of the Joint Board.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water and milk are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious diseases are conveyed by the Joint Isolation Hospital Ambulance. The Ambulance for non-infectious cases, provided by the County Council, is stationed at Associated British Studios and is manned by the private fire brigade staff and by volunteers.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. There is no special nursing for infectious diseases.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare

First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood

Ante-Natal:

2nd and 4th Thursdays
at 2 p.m.

Infants:

Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

2nd Wednesday in each
month at 10.15 a.m.

Clinic: Fieldways, Wellhouse Lane, Barnet.

(ii) Tuberculosis Dispensary

Out-patients' Department, Wellhouse
Hospital, Barnet

Wednesdays:

All day

(iii) School Dental Clinic
Hillside Secondary Modern School,
Boreham Wood

Wednesdays :
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(iv) Child Guidance Clinic
H.C.C. Combined Social Services Centre,
Hill End Hospital, St. Albans

Mondays to Fridays:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays:
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Patients seen by appointment only)

(v) Venereal Diseases
Special Treatment Clinic, Oster Hills,
St. Albans

Females:
Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.
Males:
Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.
Fridays 5 to 7 p.m.

(e) HOSPITALS

Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet

General hospital containing 600 beds, including maternity beds; managed by the Public Assistance Committee. Has facilities for operative surgery, X-ray, and massage, and has a whole-time pathologist.

Victoria Hospital Barnet

Voluntary hospital containing 52 beds.

Bushey and District Hospital, Bushey

Local cottage hospital, containing 38 beds.

Joint Isolation Hospital, Barnet

Infectious diseases are sent to this hospital, which contains 54 beds.

Joint Smallpox Hospital, Cheshunt
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Ware

Provided by the Hertfordshire County Council.

The hospital accommodation appears to be adequate.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 170/47 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1947 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valey Water Company are the suppliers and they state that regular and numerous chemical and

bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply were carried out. The results were consistently satisfactory.

3. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 2,791 houses in the district
 - (a) About 2,752 or 99 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house and
 - (b) About 25 or 1 per cent. by means of standpipes.

The few remaining houses are without piped water supply. One sample of well water, serving 4 outlying cottages, was taken during the year, for bacteriological examination. The result was satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No important extension of sewerage was carried out during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Several cases of minor pollutions of streams have been investigated. The factory estate on the south side of Elstree Way, Boreham Wood, has given rise to several instances of oil pollution of water courses. Where these have been traced, the factories concerned have taken the necessary steps to prevent further pollution. One serious case of stream pollution was outstanding at the close of the year and investigations were proceeding.

One pond was treated with D.D.T. as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green treet, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 13.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1947 was one, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) Fifteen annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, excluding holders of individual licences, 40.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

SECTION D**HOUSING**

During the year 39 inspections and visits were made in connection with the Rural housing survey. By arrangement with the owner, two sub-standard cottages were closed, upon the occupiers vacating. One of the two families was rehoused by the Council.

SECTION E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****(a) MILK SUPPLY**

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

There were eight cases of scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. Five of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Barnet.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Eighty-eight vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Disinfection of infected premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8	5	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Measles	109	2	—
Whooping Cough	39	2	—
Pneumonia	7	—	4
Dysentery	7	7	1
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever			1			4	2		1			
Diphtheria						1					2	2
Erysipelas						4						
Measles	7	6	14	24	8	48	2					
Whooping Cough	3	6	4	6	4	15			1			
Pneumonia				1	1			1			4	
Dysentery									1		3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia									1			
Poliomyelitis		1								1		

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1947.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1—5 ...								
5—15 ...		1						
15—25 ...	5	3		1	1	1		
25—35 ...	8							
35—45 ...	2			2				
45—55 ...	1							
55—65 ...	2							
65 and up ...	3							
TOTALS	*21	4		3	1	1	—	—

* Including 16 cases in Shenley Hospital (Middlesex County Council)

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

When I consider that here is the ninth annual report I have completed in the service of this Council, my memory runs the gauntlet of these difficult years, to suffer again the chastisement of error and to be heartened again by the spur of achievement. The latter brings its own reward and I hope that I have been able to turn even the disappointments to gain by assimilating their lessons into the armoury of experience. I count it not the least of fortune's favours to me, that your housing progress has been so magnificent, especially during the year under review, that it has been possible to ameliorate the lot of the majority of the badly housed families in the district. For some years housing applications and the allocation of Council houses, under your direction, have been dealt with in my office and I am proud in the knowledge that the motives which have actuated me, and the policy which you have evinced, have never been at variance. Your aim and mine, if I may boldly formulate it, is to offer housing accommodation to those in the greatest need, after having due regard to what may be called the balancing factors of residence qualification, war service, employment, etc. The investigation of home conditions and the management of housing estates is closely linked up with the work of the sanitary inspector and, thanks to the painstaking work of my Assistant Rehousing Officer, the normal public health work has not suffered one jot from this additional burden, as the tabular statements of my formal report bear abundant testimony.

For the encouragement which has been afforded me by a pleasurable liaison with my colleagues and by a continuance of your invaluable support I would like to express once more my wholehearted thanks.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,

Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Rural Housing Survey:							
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Visits and re-inspections							—
Public Health Act inspections							149
Public Health Act re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	486
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of per-							
mited numbers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Visits in respect of:—							
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers							14
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)							72
Passage paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Water Courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Housing Accommodation							415
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							TOTAL
							2,209

DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES & STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc....	68
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	9
Overcrowding	—
Drainage	22
Defective paving of yards and passages	—
Defective w.c. and sink connections	43
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	12
Choked and insanitary water courses	—
Filthy or verminous premises	1
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.)	30
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Co.) ...	3
Offensive accumulations	1
Improper keeping of animals	1
Dairies and cowsheds... ..	1
Food Preparers	—
Factories and Offices	3
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	—
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	2
TOTAL	196

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Houses not reasonably fit	Section 9, Housing Act 1936	1	1
Defective drain ...	Section 39, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Dirty Houses ...	Section 83, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Nuisances: Sections 92 (1)(a)	Section 93 Public Health Act 1936	10	10
Dilapidated dustbins	Section 75, Public Health Act 1936	12	12

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	31
Floors repaired	12
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	11
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	28
External brickwork repointed or repaired	4
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	5
Dampness remedied	16
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	10
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved ...	—
Adequate water supply provided	—
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	25
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	56
Paving to yards and passages repaired	1
Dustbins provided	42
Water courses cleansed	—
Accumulations removed	2
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	1
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	—
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	—
Cowshed approaches cleansed	—
Food preparers' premises improved	—
Rooms disinfected	17
Verminous houses disinfested	16
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	—
Factory defects remedied	3
Smoke nuisances remedied	—
Moveable dwellings removed	—
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	—
Miscellaneous	—
TOTAL	280

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	—	25	27	—	188
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	1
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	4%	—	—	.5%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	5	1	—	3
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	—	24%	3.7%	—	2.7%

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	13
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	3
Number of other producers	6
Number of retail purveyors	12

During the year 144 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops.

The following table gives the results of samples taken in the District by the County Council Sampling Officers and by the Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Failed Meth. Blue	Failed B. Coli	Failed Both	Failed Phos. Test
Accredited Milk	65	39	4	10	12	—
T.T. Milk	18	14	2	1	1	—
School Milk	9	7	—	1	—	1
Pasteurised Milk	3	1	—	—	—	2

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of
Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	109
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the
Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were ren- dered fit after service of formal notices: ...	
---	--

(a) By owners	—
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
--	---

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	10
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
--	--

(a) By owners	8
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	2
--	---